

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 L-02 SP-01

DRC-01 SNM-01 /048 W

----- 102253

O 121640Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7535

DEA HQTRS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2663

LIMDIS

MEXICO FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: DEA REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT VESCO

1. AT 1955 LAST EVENING, JULY 11, THE EMBASSY'S POST SECURITY OFFICER RETURNED THE CALL OF MR. WILLIAM KNIERIM OF DEA IN MIAMI. KNIERIM INQUIRED WHETHER THE EMBASSY WOULD APPROVE HIS COMING TO SAN JOSE ALONE TO TALK PERSONALLY WITH ROBERT VESCO CONCERNING AN ELECTRONIC SWEEP JOB WHICH TWO FORMER DEA AGENTS HAD DONE FOR VESCO IN NEW YORK. KNIERIM REQUESTED THAT THE EMBASSY CALL HIS SUPERVISOR IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THIS MORNING (MEL MOORE, 202-382-7237). KNIERIM INDICATED THAT DEA DIRECTOR BARTELS FAVORED HIS COMING TO COSTA RICA FOR THIS PURPOSE.

2. I RECOMMEND THAT THIS MATTER BE DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY BY THE DEA AND THE DEPARTMENT IN VIEW OF THE OBVIOUS SENSITIVITIES AND BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF THE VESCO CASE. UNLESS THERE IS OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE TO THIS PARTICULAR INVESTIGATION, I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND
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THAT ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICER COME TO COSTA RICA

TO TALK TO VESCO. SUCH A VISIT WOULD ALMOST SURELY
BECOME KNOWN AND BE MISUNDERSTOOD HERE. AT BEST IT
WOULD BE UNSEEMLY SINCE VESCO IS A FUGITIVE FROM U.S.
JUSTICE, AND IT VERY LIKELY WOULD BE TWISTED AND USED
BY VESCO LATER FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES.

3. I ALSO THINK IT IS EXTREMELY UNWISE TO USE THE
TELEPHONE FOR DISCUSSION OF MATTERS OF THIS SENSITIVITY,
AND RECOMMEND THAT IN THE FUTURE DEA COMMUNICATE WITH
THE EMBASSY ON SUCH MATTERS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT.
LANE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, SURVEILLANCE, INSTRUCTIONS, INTERROGATION, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANJO02663
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740187-0082
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740753/aaaabtid.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEA REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT VESCO
TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, PFOR, CS, US, DEA, (VESCO, ROBERT), (KNIERIM, WILLIAM)
To: STATE DEA HQTRS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005